



**STATEMENT OF THE OACPS SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE 31ST COMMEMORATION OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE PERPETRATED
AGAINST THE TUTSIS IN RWANDA**

7 April 2025

His Excellency Moussa Saleh Batraki on behalf The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) joins His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, the Government and the people of Rwanda in solemn commemoration of Kibuka 31, marking the thirty-first anniversary of the 1994 genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis in Rwanda.

Under the theme, “Remember, Unite, Renew,” this annual observance provides a moment for deep reflection, collective remembrance, and a renewed commitment to the sanctity of human life.

Today’s solemn anniversary is a time to honour the memory of innocent lives lost during one of the darkest chapters in recent human history. The OACPS stands in solidarity with the people of Rwanda, paying tribute to their resilience, their pursuit of reconciliation, and their continuous efforts to rebuild a just and peaceful society.

In the spirit of intra-OACPS solidarity, and in accordance with the Decision adopted at the 79th Session of the OACPS Council of Ministers held in Gaborone, Botswana from 3 to 5 May 2004, the OACPS has consistently joined the Rwandese community in Brussels and across the globe in raising awareness of the enduring consequences of genocide. This act of remembrance is also a call to global conscience—an appeal to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated.

Thirty-one years on, the genocide against the Tutsis remains a stark reminder of the importance of the international community’s collective responsibility to prevent mass atrocities. The OACPS reaffirms its commitment to advancing peace, security, and sustainable development across its member states. In standing with Rwanda, the OACPS also renews its support for United Nations-led and other international efforts aimed at fostering a world grounded in peace, justice, and the protection of human dignity, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.

As we witness a troubling rise in conflicts across Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and beyond, the imperative for unified global action grows stronger. The OACPS underscores the urgent need to promote mechanisms that prevent impunity for crimes against humanity and mass atrocities.

The painful lessons from the tragic events in Rwanda in 1994 call for stronger early warning systems across the continent, adherence to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect, media accountability, and a vigilant global conscience that prioritizes prevention over regret.

The genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda teaches us about the devastating costs of indifference and the transformative power of compassion, solidarity, and collective responsibility. As we remember, let us also act—striving to build a future in which every human life is cherished, respected, and protected.

May the courage and perseverance of the Rwandese people serve as a beacon of hope, inspiring all nations to work together for a world free of hatred and violence.

Moussa S. BATRAKI
The OACPS Secretary-General